

CITY OF MANCHESTER
URBAN PONDS RESTORATION PROGRAM SURVEY
2003

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The Survey Center
University of New Hampshire

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University of New Hampshire Survey Center

The UNH Survey Center is an independent, non-partisan academic survey research organization and a division of the UNH Institute for Policy and Social Science Research.

The Survey Center conducts telephone, mail, e-mail, Internet, and self-administered surveys, as well as focus groups and other qualitative research for university researchers, government agencies, public non-profit organizations, private businesses, and media clients.

Our senior staff have 40 years experience in designing and conducting custom research on a broad range of political, social, health care, and other public policy issues.

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City of Manchester
Urban Ponds Restoration Program Survey

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City of Manchester Urban Ponds Restoration Program Survey

Executive Summary

The Manchester Urban Ponds Restoration Program Survey was conducted for the City of Manchester by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center in Spring, 2003. In collaboration with the City of Manchester, the UNH Survey Center designed a survey to provide a better understanding of the public awareness level concerning the environmental conditions of several urban ponds in Manchester, and also how people feel about the ponds in general. Surveys were mailed to 2,000 randomly selected Manchester residents. A total of 345 completed surveys were returned and the data in the following tables are based on these surveys. The margin of sampling error for a survey of this size is +/- 5.3%. Charts can be found in Appendix A, detailed tabular results are in Appendix B, Appendix C lists results to open-ended questions, and the questionnaire used can be found in Appendix D.

The major findings of the survey include:

Public Awareness

- The majority of residents know the location of 5 of the 7 Manchester urban ponds examined. Most know the location of Crystal Lake (86%) and Dorrs Pond (84%). Only 14% of respondents know the location of McQuesten Pond and about one quarter (28%) know the location of Maxwell Pond.
 - The majority of respondents know the location of Pine Island Pond (76%), Stevens Pond (72%), and Nutts Pond (67%).
 - One hundred percent of respondents in Wards 3,5,and 7 and 96% of those who lived in Manchester more than 20 years knows the location of Crystal Lake.
- Eighty percent of respondents have visited Crystal Lake and Dorrs Pond. However, only 21% have visited Maxwell Pond and 8% have visited McQuesten Pond.
 - The three remaining Manchester urban ponds were visited by just over half of respondents, overall (Pine Island Pond 55%, and Nutts and Stevens Ponds 54% each) .
 - Those respondents 60 years or older and those who lived in Manchester more than 20 years are most likely to have visited Dorrs Pond or Crystal Lake.
- Only one-quarter of respondents have heard of the Urban Ponds Restoration Program prior to this questionnaire.
- Sixty-nine percent of respondents know what a “watershed” is. Those respondents with an advanced degree are most likely to know indicate that they know what a watershed is.

Current Waterbody Conditions

- Only 4% of respondents describe the condition of Manchester’s urban ponds as clean, 39% say they are fair, and 28% indicate they are polluted or very polluted.
- Seventy-six percent of respondents indicate that illegal dumping/litter is a somewhat serious or very serious issue concerning the Manchester urban ponds. Just over two-thirds of the respondents report that increased development and habitat destruction are somewhat serious or very serious issues.
- While 44% of respondents indicate that unsafe neighborhoods are somewhat serious or very serious issue concerning the Manchester urban ponds, this issue has the lowest percentage of all the other issues asked about.

Functions and Values

- Ninety-one percent of respondents think that the ponds are very valuable or somewhat valuable for wildlife. Ninety-five percent of those who have lived in Manchester 11 to 20 years think the ponds for wildlife are very valuable.
- Eighty percent of respondents think that the ponds are very valuable or somewhat valuable for recreation.
- The majority of respondents report that they did not canoe (88%) while 72% did not go bird watching and 76% did not go fishing.
- Walking or jogging trails was the most popular activity, of the six examined, at Manchester Urban Ponds.

Dorrs Pond was by far the most frequently-used pond for walking or jogging (43%), while 15 percent of respondents report using the trails at Crystal Lake or Pine Island Pond. Fewer use Stevens Pond (9%), Nutts Pond (7%) or Maxwell Pond (2%).

- Twenty-seven percent of respondents picnic at Crystal Lake or Dorrs Pond, the next most popular use of Manchester Urban Ponds. Remaining ponds (Pine Island 8%, Nutts 6%, Stevens 4%, Maxwell 1%) are used far less often for picnicking.
- Crystal lake is the most popular for swimming with 35% of respondents indicating they participated in this activity in the past year. Three percent report having swam at Dorrs Pond during the past year, 2 percent at Nutts Pond, and 1 percent each at Pine Island, Stevens, and Maxwell Ponds.
- One-fifth of respondents (20%) go bird watching at Dorrs Pond while half as many bird watch at Crystal Lake (10%), Pine Island Pond (10%) or Stevens Pond (9%). Bird watching is the only activity respondents report doing at McQuesten Pond (2%).
- Stevens Pond is used for fishing by 13 percent of respondents, followed by Crystal Lake and Dorrs Pond (10%) each. Seven percent fish at Nutts Pond and fewer fish at Pine Island Pond (5%) or Maxwell Pond (2%).
- Canoeing is the least popular activity at Manchester Urban Ponds. Only 8 percent report that they canoe at Crystal Lake while 5 percent use Stevens Pond for this activity. Fewer use the remaining ponds for canoeing (Dorrs 3%, Nutts 2%, Pine Island 1%).
- Ice skating was mentioned the most often respondents who cited some other activity. Others also commented that they did engage in the activities examined, just not the Manchester Urban Ponds.

Possible Solutions

- Eighty-one percent of respondents report that treating or eliminating urban run-off and 82% of respondents report that restrictions on new development near ponds would be somewhat useful or very useful solution in addressing the issues facing Manchester's urban ponds.
- Restricting public access as a solution does not seem useful to 40% of the respondents and 30% of respondents report that altering wildlife habitats is not a useful solution.
- Almost 50% of respondents report that they are not interested in volunteering for outreach / education activities and 44% are not interested in volunteering for water quality monitoring.
- Forty-six percent of respondents indicate that they are somewhat or very interested in volunteering for litter clean-up events.

Demographics

- Seventy percent of the respondents have lived in Manchester more than 20 years.
- Forty-two percent of respondents are from Ward 1 (20%) and Wards 2 and 4 (22%).
- Almost half of the respondents are between 40 and 59 years old, 28% are younger than 40 while 34% are 60 or older.
- The highest level of education was approximately evenly split with one-quarter in each education category: high school or less, some college, bachelor's degree, and advanced degree.

APPENDIX A

CHARTS

Chart 1

Awareness & Visitation of Manchester Urban Ponds

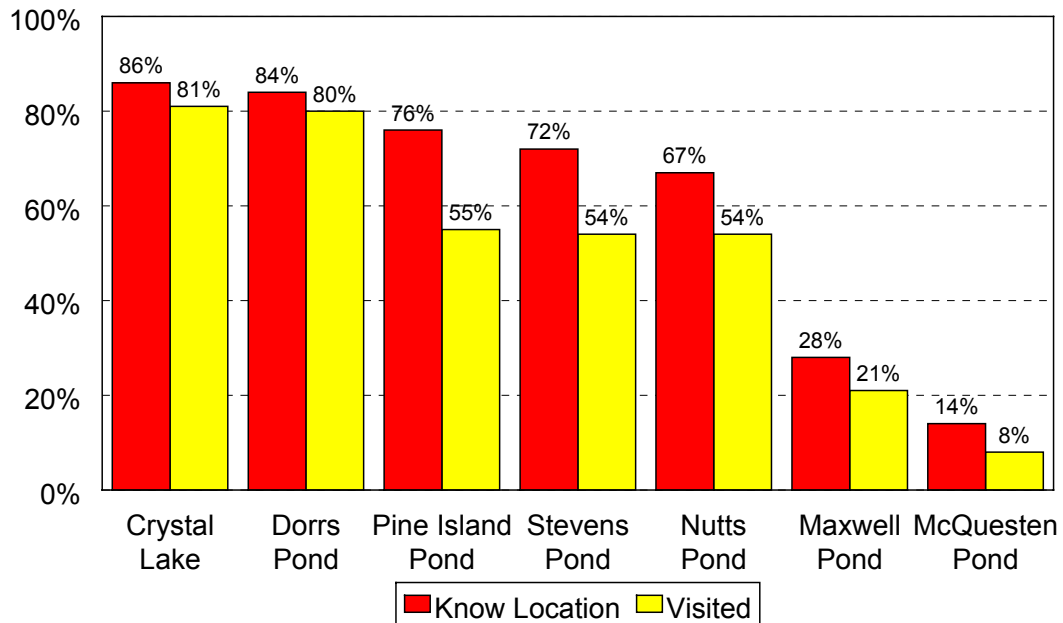


Chart 2

Heard of Urban Ponds Restoration Program Prior to Questionnaire?

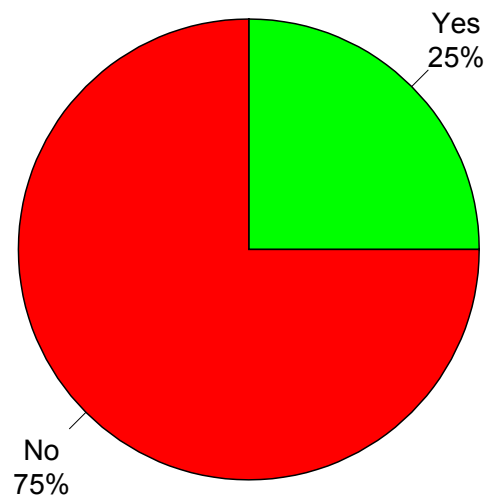


Chart 3

Know What A "Watershed" Is?

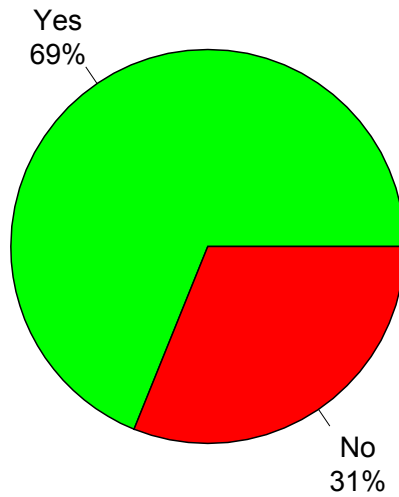


Chart 4

Condition of Manchester Urban Ponds in General

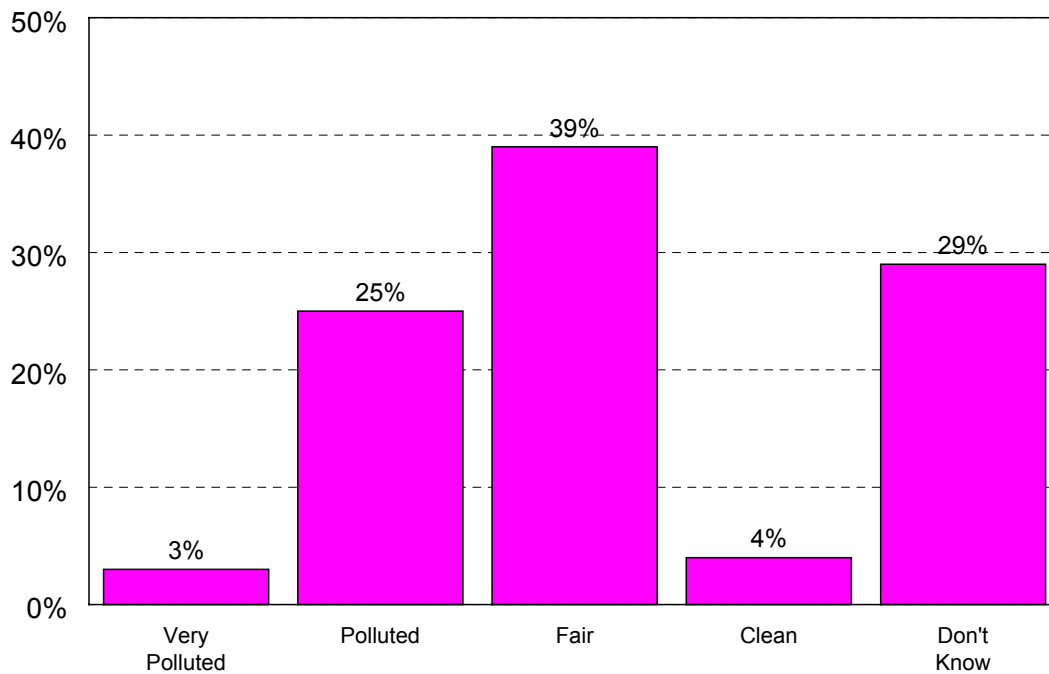


Chart 5

Seriousness of Various Issues Concerning Manchester Urban Ponds

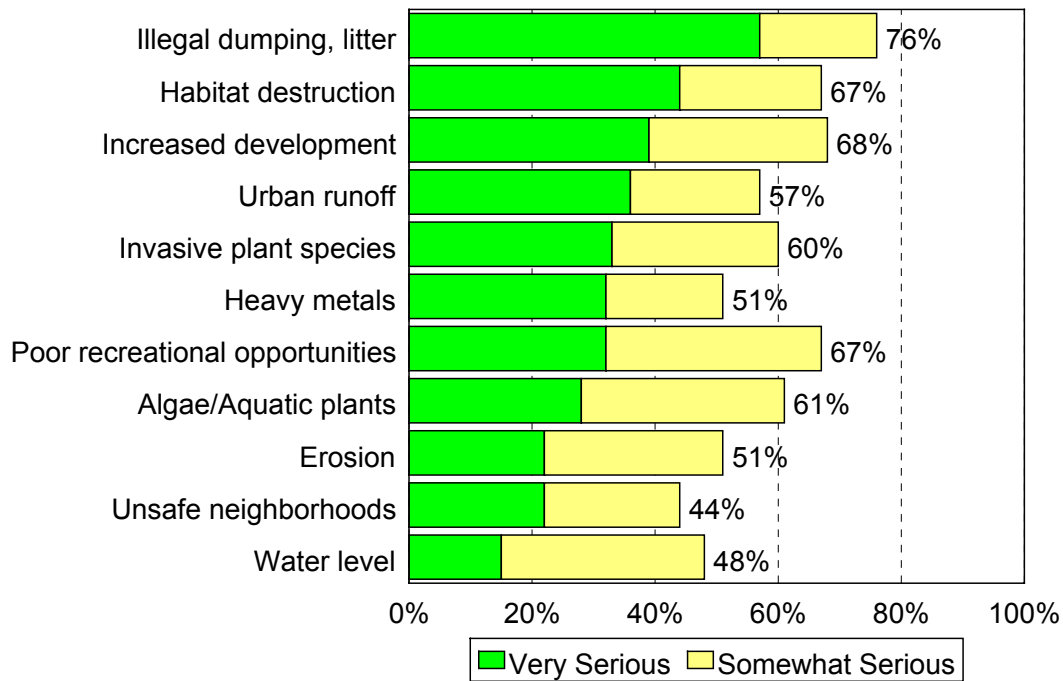


Chart 6

Value of Manchester Urban Ponds for Wildlife and Recreation

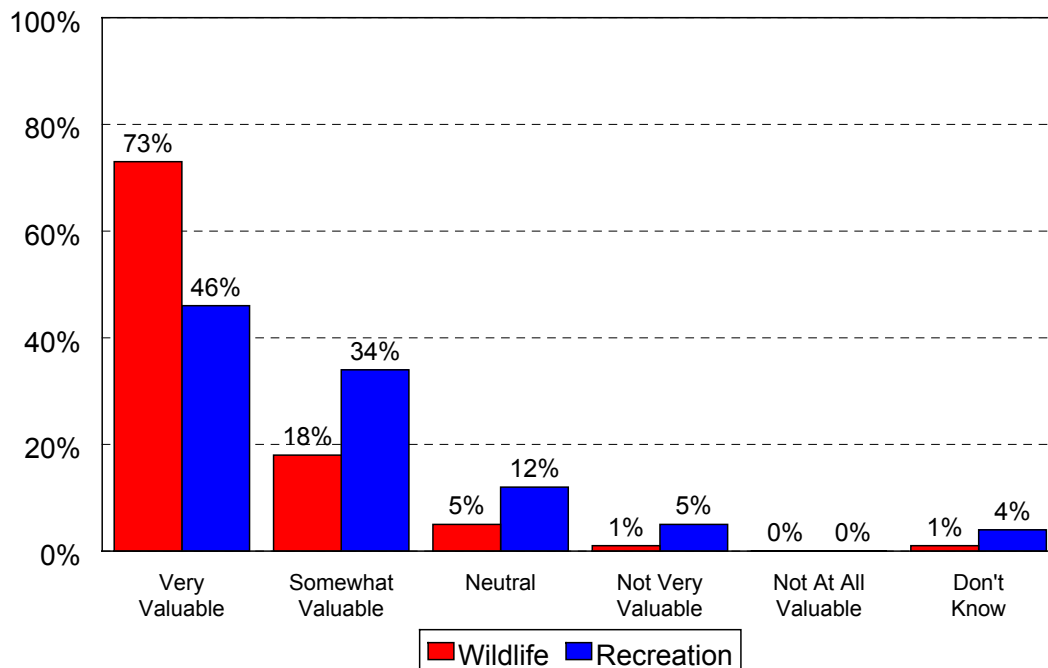


Chart 7

Bird Watching at Manchester Urban Ponds

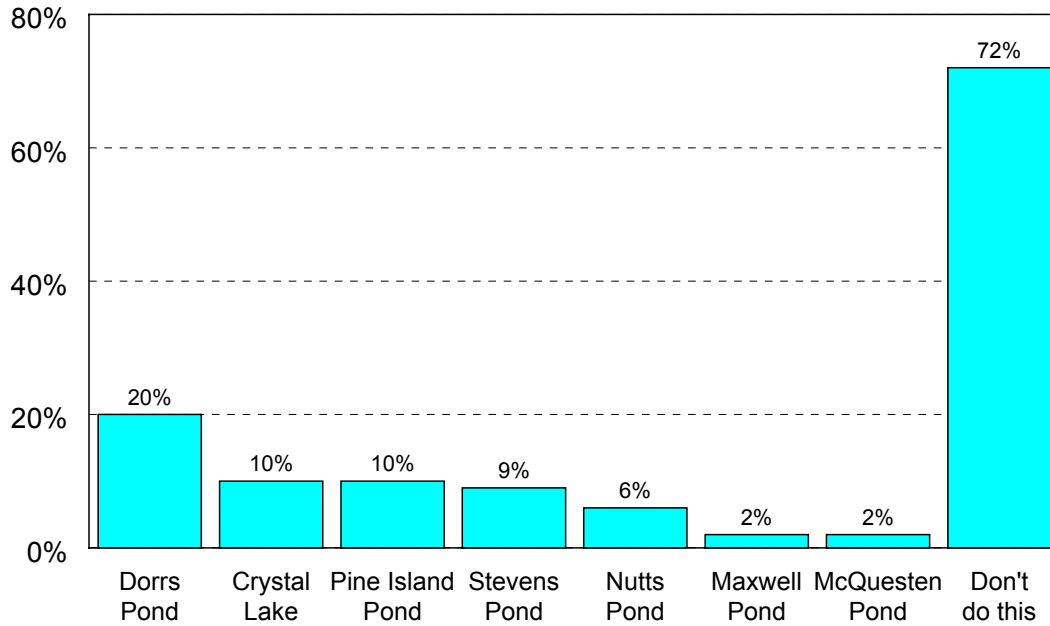


Chart 8

Canoeing at Manchester Urban Ponds

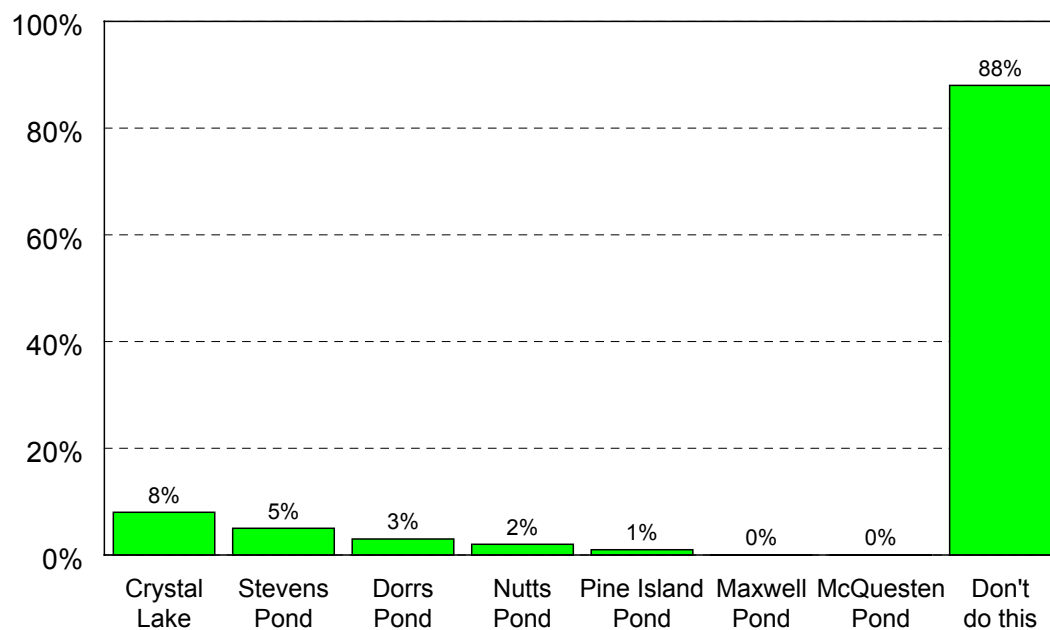


Chart 9

Fishing at Manchester Urban Ponds

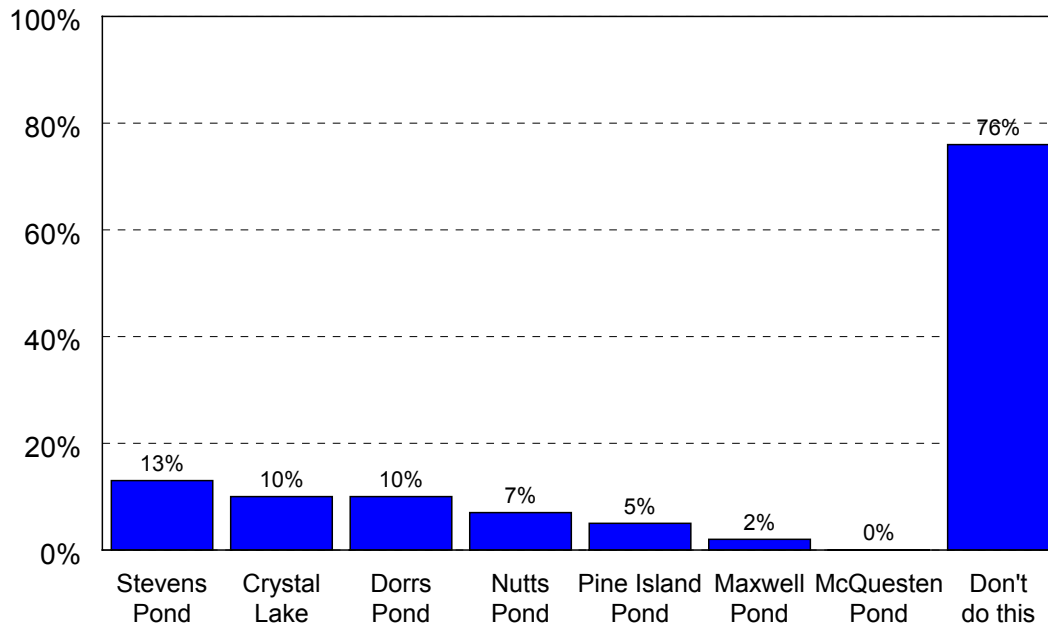


Chart 10

Picnicking at Manchester Urban Ponds

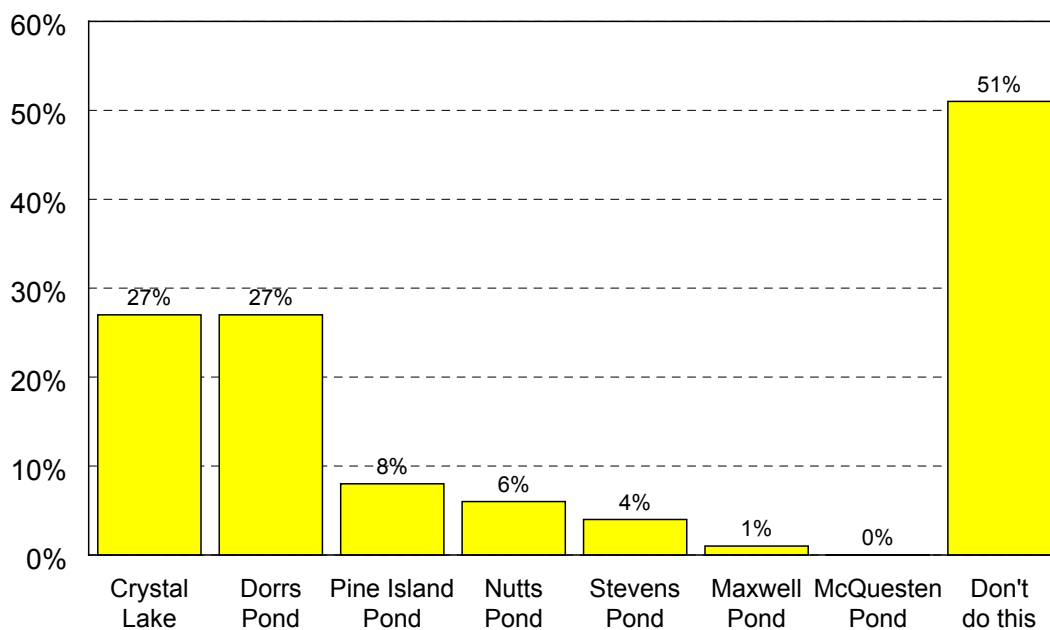


Chart 11

Swimming at Manchester Urban Ponds

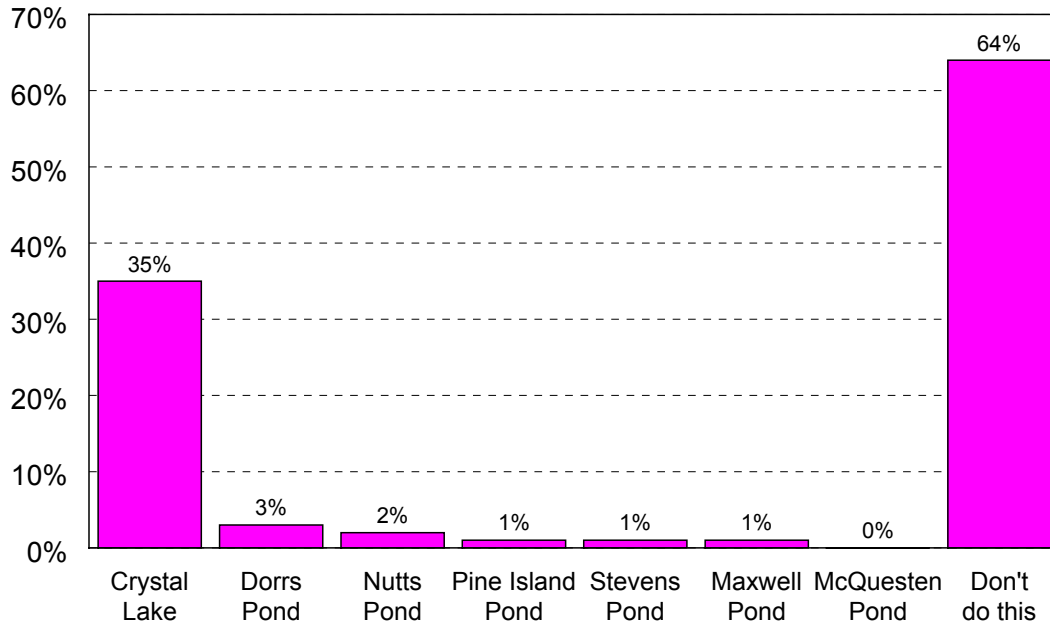


Chart 12

Walk/Jog the Trails at Manchester Urban Ponds

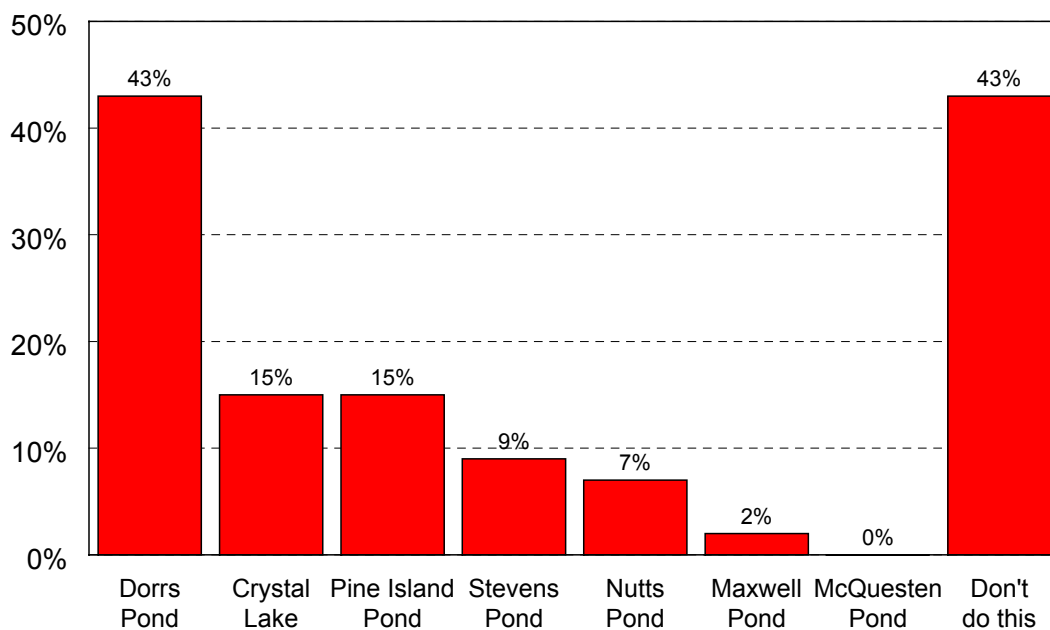


Chart 13

Usefulness of Possible Solutions Concerning Manchester Urban Ponds

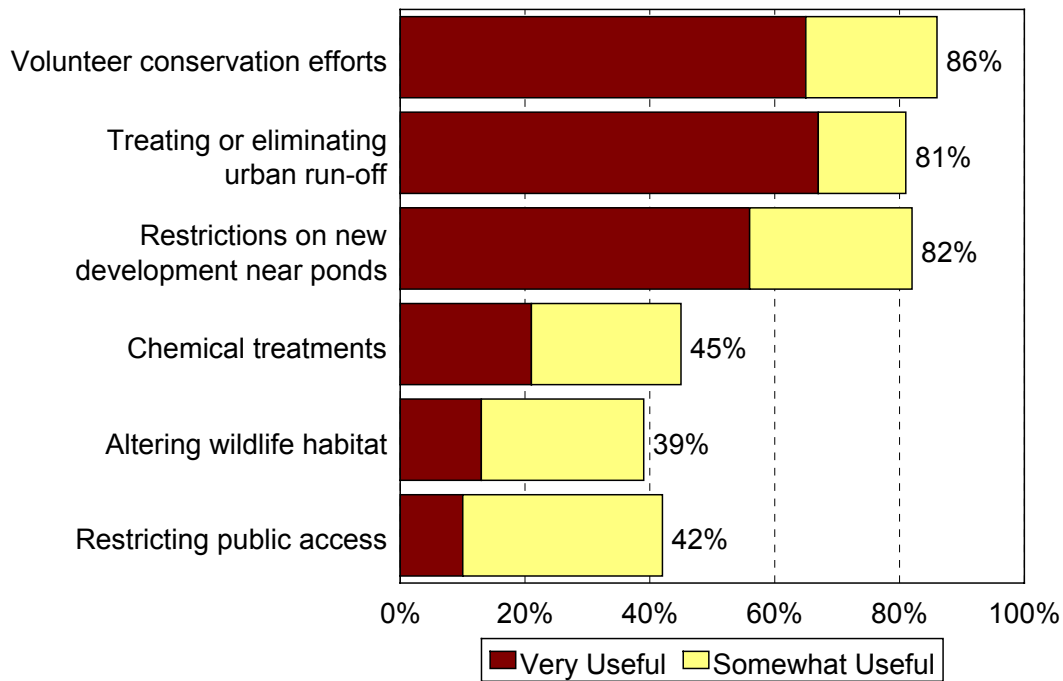


Chart 14

Interest in Various Volunteer Activities

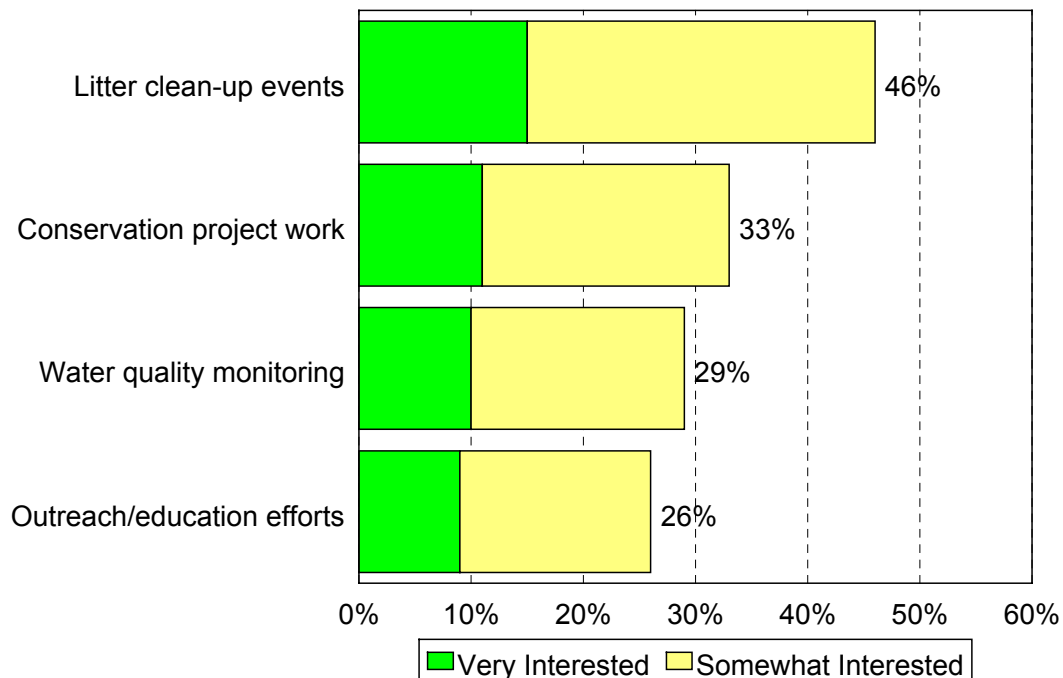


Chart 15

Demographic Information

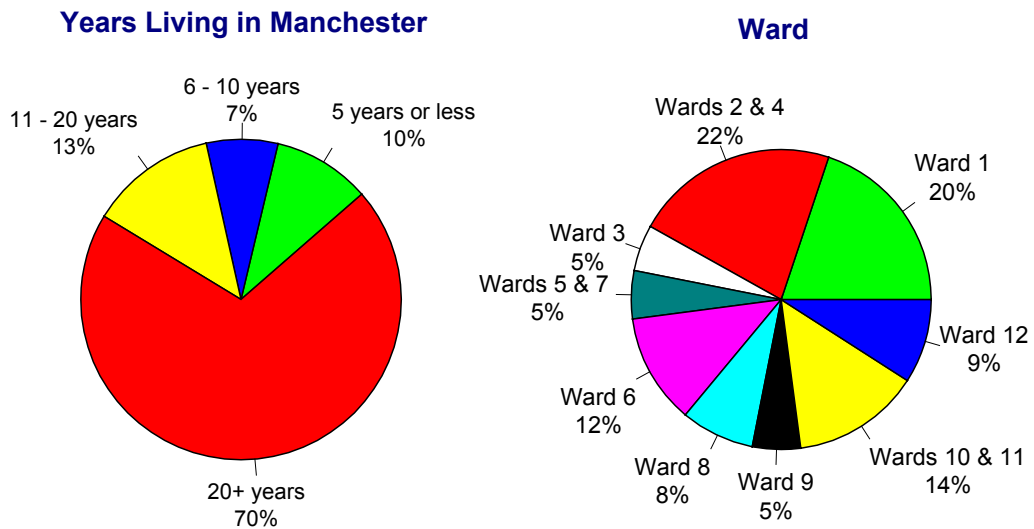
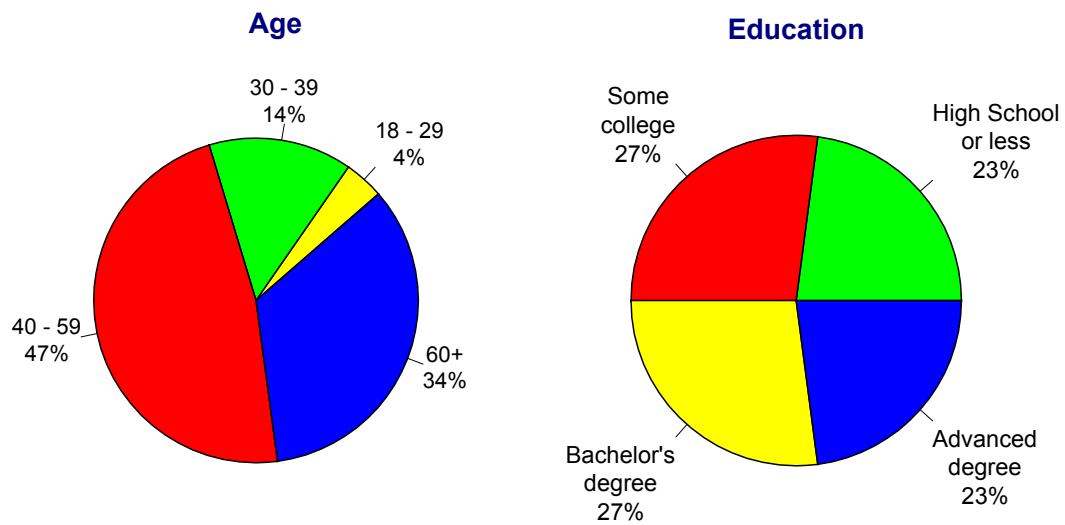


Chart 16

Demographic Information



APPENDIX B
DETAILED TABULAR RESULTS

APPENDIX C
OPEN-END RESPONSES

Q8gO: Other recreational activities at Manchester's urban ponds in the past year.

Skating

Skating

Use to swim at Crystal Lake as a child. Dorrs Pond Ice skating was great when

City cleared it. 1987-skated w/kids
 Enjoyed these ponds in younger years.
 Skating
 Skating
 Haven't done any since our family were young.
 Ice-skating
 Skating
 Sports-nearby
 Sun-bathing
 Skipping rocks from shore
 Walk around Massebisc Lake
 Make them safe to visit
 I do these, but not at these water areas
 Plant identification
 Ice-skating
 Massabesic-picnics
 Snowshoe trails
 Ice-skating
 Do all activities but not at these ponds.
 Skating
 Go to massabesic
 Looking at the falls, skating
 Visited park
 Ice-skating
 Ice-skating
 I do these activities but haven't done them at any of these
 places in the past
 year.
 Skating (winter)
 Would if know where they are - we really wanted
 swimming/ walking and
 bird watching last summer
 I had to look hard to find McQuesten, is it really
 considered a pond?
 Sailing

Q9gO: Other possible solutions in addressing the issues facing Manchester's urban ponds.

Stop cookouts where all the litter is left behind.
 Land use control- limit fertilizers and other applications
 dredging or air
 Pumping.
 For swimming
 Winter ice skating- we need free places to skate-
 Education
 City paid for conservation
 Overall plan, involving clean-up, maintenance and
 usage and monitoring plans.
 Need better access and public awareness
 More trash receptacles in public areas

Q10eo: Interested in volunteering for: other.

Whatever would help that I could do
 Too old! 78
 Caring for elderly parents. No time available right now
 Very interested but at 83 we are restricted but could help
 some by donation to
 improve these ponds.
 Too old!
 Work and health reasons
 My age and difficulty in walking make any volunteering
 impossible.
 I love outdoor photography. Older in shape hiker. Have
 done long trail VT end
 to end.
 Walk or jog trails
 Look at White Park in Concord- what a great winter
 wonderland
 Handicapped and not interested in dealing with the
 public at this time.
 Recreation, walk, visit, etc.
 Too old

